

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (original) A locking element for holding together
2 threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired loosening,
3 comprising at least two annular lock washers lying on each other
4 and having center holes, wherein the inner surfaces lying on each
5 other have teeth and the outer faces are provided with teeth,
6 characterized in that at least one center hole (14) has a rounding
7 (6) or a groove (24) on the inner face that is provided with
8 teeth.

1 2. (original) The locking element, possibly according
2 to claim 1, characterized in that the tooth edges (8) of the tooth
3 flanks (7) are oriented off-radial.

1 3. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that the tooth edges (8) of the
3 tooth flanks (7) are V-shaped.

1 4. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that the tooth edges (8) of the
3 tooth flanks (7) are U-shaped.

1 5. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that the tooth edges (8) of the
3 tooth flanks (7) are S-shaped.

4 6. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
5 according to ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the edges
6 of the teeth (5) have a non-radial direction.

1 7. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]], characterized in that the edges of
3 the teeth (5) have a curvature.

1 8. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
2 according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 7]], characterized in that
3 the lock washers (1, 2) are connected to each other by means of a
4 sleeve (16, 21).

1 9. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 ~~one of claims 1 to~~ claim 8, characterized in that the sleeve (21)
3 is disposed on inner faces of the center holes (14).

1 10. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 8, characterized in that the sleeve
3 (16) is disposed on outer faces of the lock washers (1, 2).

1 11. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 10]], characterized in that one
3 sleeve is disposed on the inner faces of the center holes (14) and
4 that a further sleeve is disposed on the outer faces of the lock
5 washers.

1 12. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 8, characterized in that the sleeve
3 (16, 21) has a lip that laterally extends over or into an edge of
4 the lock washers (1, 2).

1 13. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to~~ claim 12, characterized in that the lip is
3 annular.

1 14. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to~~ claim 12, characterized in that the lip is
3 formed by tabs (18).

1 15. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to~~ claim 12, characterized in that the tabs are
3 annular segments (17).

1 16. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 8, characterized in that the sleeve
3 is a slotted ring.

1 17. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 12, characterized in that a
3 transition between the sleeve (16, 21) and the lip has a rounding
4 and/or a chamfer.

1 18. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 12, characterized in that a
3 transition between the sleeve and the lip is designed
4 perpendicular.

1 19. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to ~~one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 12, characterized in that the lock
3 washers have a groove (22, 23) for receiving the lip.